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In re Application of
James Kleinsteinber,
Richard L. Hammons,
Dilip Gunawardena, and
Shankar Balasubramanian
Application No. 10/062,853
Filed: January 31, 2002
Attorney Docket No. 112-0019US
Title: Node and Port Authentication
in a Fibre Channel Network

LETTER

Dear Dr. Gunawardena:

You are named as a joint inventor in the above-identified United States patent application filed under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 116 (United States Code) and 37 CFR 1.47(a), Rules of Practice in Patent Cases. Should a patent be granted on the application you will be designated therein as a joint inventor.

As a named inventor you are entitled to inspect any paper in the file wrapper of the application, order copies of all or any part thereof (at a prepaid cost per 37 CFR 1.19) or make your position of record in the application. Alternatively, you may arrange to do any of the preceding through a registered patent attorney or agent presenting written authorization from you. If you care to join the application, counsel of record (see below) would presumably assist you. Joining in the application would entail the filing of an appropriate oath or declaration by you pursuant to 37 CFR 1.63.

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney Nancy Johnson at (703) 305-0309. Requests for information regarding your application should be directed to the File Information Unit at (703) 308-2733. Information regarding how to pay for and order a copy of the application, or a specific paper in the application, should be directed to the Certification Division at (703) 308-9726 or 1-800-972-6382 (outside the Washington D.C. area).

Nancy Johnson
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September 4, 2002

Claims regarding patent application # 10/062,853 ,
Node and Port Authentication in a Fibre Channel Network

Claim #1:

This claim is false.

Network switches have been manufactured by many companies over many years. They all contain a memory, a first port, a second port, and a processor. The fact that they can be used to store, send or receive a secret fact, derive a second-type and third-type derivative of that secret fact, and compare those facts, second-type derivatives, and third-type derivatives, is completely irrelevant. In fact for any Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) –enabled network switch attempting to mutually authenticate each of its ports with its neighbor on the other end of that link, this is a well-defined and commonly-used procedure. This procedure is fully defined in “Entity Authentication Using Public Key Cryptography”, FIPS PUB 196, 1997 February 18, US Department of Commerce / National Institute of Standards and Technology, which obviously pre-dates this patent application by several years.

The aforementioned publication is derived from Section 5.2.2, “Three pass authentication”, of ISO/IEC 9798-3, “Information technology – Security techniques – Entity Authentication – Part 3: Mechanisms using digital signature techniques”, 1993 and 1998, which obviously pre-date this patent application by several years.

Claim #8:

Given the existence of Claim #9, Claim #8 is superfluous. That is because a nonce is a random number, to be used only once.

Claims #2 to #9 inclusive:

Given the falsity of Claim #1, and given the dependency of Claims #2 to #9 inclusive upon Claim #1, Claims #2 to #9 inclusive are also false.

Claim #10:

This claim is false.

This process is fully defined in “Entity Authentication Using Public Key Cryptography”, FIPS PUB 196, 1997 February 18, US Department of Commerce / National Institute of

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Standards and Technology, which obviously pre-dates this patent application by several years.

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Claims #11 to #22 inclusive:

Given the falsity of Claim #10, and given the dependency of Claims #11 to #22 inclusive upon Claim #10, Claims #11 to #22 inclusive are also false.

Claim #23:

This claim is false.

This process is fully defined in "Entity Authentication Using Public Key Cryptography", FIPS PUB 196, 1997 February 18, US Department of Commerce / National Institute of Standards and Technology, which obviously pre-dates this patent application by several years.

The aforementioned publication is derived from Section 5.2.2, "Three pass authentication", of ISO/IEC 9798-3, "Information technology – Security techniques – Entity Authentication – Part 3: Mechanisms using digital signature techniques", 1993 and 1998, which obviously pre-date this patent application by several years.

Claim #24:

Given the existence of Claim #25, Claim #24 is superfluous. That is because a nonce is a random number, to be used only once.

Claims #24 to #36 inclusive:

Given the falsity of Claim #23, and given the dependency of Claims #24 to #36 inclusive upon Claim #23, Claims #24 to #36 inclusive are also false.

Claim #37:

This claim is false.

This process is fully defined in "Entity Authentication Using Public Key Cryptography", FIPS PUB 196, 1997 February 18, US Department of Commerce / National Institute of Standards and Technology, which obviously pre-dates this patent application by several years.

The aforementioned publication is derived from Section 5.2.2, "Three pass authentication", of ISO/IEC 9798-3, "Information technology – Security techniques –

Entity Authentication – Part 3: Mechanisms using digital signature techniques”, 1993 and 1998, which obviously pre-date this patent application by several years.

Claim #38:

Given the existence of Claim #39, Claim #38 is superfluous. That is because a nonce is a random number, to be used only once.

Claims #38 to #40 inclusive:

Given the falsity of Claim #35, and given the dependency of Claims #38 to #40 inclusive upon Claim #35, Claims #38 to #40 inclusive are also false.

Claims #41 to #42 inclusive:

Given the falsity of Claim #38, and given the dependency of Claims #41 to #42 inclusive upon Claim #38, Claims #41 to #42 inclusive are also false.

Claim #43:

Given the falsity of Claim #35, and given the dependency of Claim #43 upon Claim #35, Claim #43 is also false.

Claim #44:

Given the falsity of Claim #41, and given the dependency of Claim #44 upon Claim #41, Claim #44 is also false.

Claim #45:

Given the falsity of Claim #42, and given the dependency of Claim #45 upon Claim #42, Claim #45 is also false.

Claim #46:

Given the falsity of Claim #43, and given the dependency of Claim #46 upon Claim #43, Claim #46 is also false.

Claim #47:

Given the falsity of Claim #35, and given the dependency of Claim #47 upon Claim #35, Claim #47 is also false.

Claim #48:

Given the falsity of Claim #45, and given the dependency of Claim #48 upon Claim #45, Claim #48 is also false.

Claim #49:

Given the falsity of Claim #46, and given the dependency of Claim #49 upon Claim #46, Claim #49 is also false.

Claim #50:

This claim is false.

This process is fully defined in "Entity Authentication Using Public Key Cryptography", FIPS PUB 196, 1997 February 18, US Department of Commerce / National Institute of Standards and Technology, which obviously pre-dates this patent application by several years.

The aforementioned publication is derived from Section 5.2.2, "Three pass authentication", of ISO/IEC 9798-3, "Information technology – Security techniques – Entity Authentication – Part 3: Mechanisms using digital signature techniques", 1993 and 1998, which obviously pre-date this patent application by several years.

Claim #51:

This claim is false.

This process is fully defined in "Entity Authentication Using Public Key Cryptography", FIPS PUB 196, 1997 February 18, US Department of Commerce / National Institute of Standards and Technology, which obviously pre-dates this patent application by several years.

The aforementioned publication is derived from Section 5.2.2, "Three pass authentication", of ISO/IEC 9798-3, "Information technology – Security techniques – Entity Authentication – Part 3: Mechanisms using digital signature techniques", 1993 and 1998, which obviously pre-date this patent application by several years.

Claims #52 to #53 inclusive:

Given the falsity of Claim #49, and given the dependency of Claims #52 to #53 inclusive upon Claim #49, Claims #52 to #53 inclusive are also false.

PEER REVIEW:

The falsity of the above claims will in all probability be corroborated and attested to by the following additional experts from the Fibre Channel industry:

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Dilip Gunawardena